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FEB 16 2004
U.S. PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE
Attorney Docket No. 18733/00070

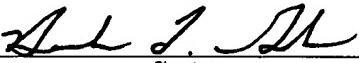
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re:

U.S. Application of: Akira TSUBOUCHI, Kiyoshi OKUBO and
Yasushi WATANABE
For: HOLLOW RACK SHAFT AND
MANUFACTURING METHOD THEREOF
Confirmation No.: 8523
U.S. Serial No.: 09/994,526
Filed: November 27, 2001
Group Art Unit: 3683
Examiner: Devon C. Kramer

MAIL STOP RCE
Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

EXPRESS MAIL MAILING LABEL NO. EV 411784129 US
DATE OF DEPOSIT: FEBRUARY 16, 2004
I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to MAIL STOP RCE, Commissioner For Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.
Derrick T. Gordon
Name of Person Mailing Paper or Fee

Signature
FEBRUARY 16, 2004

PETITION FOR ONE-MONTH EXTENSION OF TIME

Applicants hereby petition that the period for response to the Office Action, mailed October 16, 2003, be extended for one month up to and including February 16, 2004.

A Request for Continued Examination (RCE) Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 is submitted concurrently herewith.

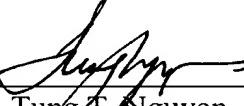
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Serial No. 09/994,526

A Response Transmittal and Fee Authorization form authorizing the amount of \$880.00 (\$770.00 for the filing fee for a Request for Continued Examination (RCE), and the three month extension fee of \$1100 under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a)(1)), to be charged to Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP's Deposit Account No. 18-1260 is enclosed herewith in duplicate. However, if the Response Transmittal and Fee Authorization form is missing, insufficient, or otherwise inadequate, or if a fee, other than the issue fee, is required during the pendency of this application, please charge such fee to Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP's Deposit Account No. 18-1260. Please credit any overpayment to Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP's Deposit Account No. 18-1260.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

Tung T. Nguyen
Registration No. 42,935
Attorney for Applicants

TTN/lb
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February 16, 2004